(ix) Enlisting the co-operation of State Governments to educate road users before issue|renewal of driving licences.

(c) No, Sir.

Presence of Indian Armed Forces Personnel in Afghanistan

930. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian army personnel and also Airforce men are fighting along with Afghan Government forces against Afghan rebels;

(b) if so, what is the number of such Indian personnel;

(c) what is expenditure involved; and

(d) how long these forces are likely to remain in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Indian Prisoners in Pakistan

931. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news item captioned 'Fate of Indian Detenus in Pakistan Sealed' published in the Times of India, Bombay dated the April 1, 1989;

(b) if so, according to Government of India, how many Indian prisoners are in Pakistani Jails and since when;

(c) what steps Government have taken for thier releasing; and

(d) what is the response of Pakistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated number of Indian nationals in Pakistani jails is 1030. The precise date from which each individual has been detained is not known.

(c) and (d) Government are in continuous dialogue with the Government of Pakistan for the release and repatriation of Indian nationals in Pakistan Jails.

Non-payment of Salaries to Marine Officers by Foreign Ships

932. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a blanket ban has been imposed on the merchant marine officers joining foreign ships, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that several shipping companies including the Mackinon Mackenizie and Co., the Hede Navigation and Ratnakar Shipping, have not paid salaries for several months to the marine officers;

(c) what are the reasons for imposing such a ban; and

(d) what action Government have taken to prevail upon such companies to pay the dues to the concerned officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Information has been received of non-payment of certain dues from the mentioned companies and the pendency of suits before the Courts. Payment of salaries of Marine Officers are governed by MUI Agreement between officer's union and shipping companies. Directorate General

of Shipping has no role in the matter.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Air taxi serivce

933. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the proposal to allow both Indians and Non-resident Indians to operate Air Taxi Service;

(b) what are the details of the scheme;

(c) what is the foreign exchange component involved in this scheme; and

(d) what are the major differences in the schemes between Indians and Non-resident Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (d) Under the present guidelines both Indian and Non-Resident Indians are allowed to operate air taxi service Director-General of Civil Aviation is the registering authority for air taxi operation. An air taxi service will be permitted to operate from such aerodromes as will be notified by DGCA from time to time. These operations will not be permitted to destinations outside India. NRI will be permitted to import aircraft with requisite Certificate of Airworthiness with their own foreign exchange resources. Repatriation of dividends would be admissible on the principle which is followed in respect of Non-Indian Residents while setting up of Industry under 40 per cent and 74 per cent schemes. The prevailing duty will be charged in full at the time of import of the aircraft.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

12.00 Noon

I. Accountants (1987-88) of the Aligarh Muslim University and related papers.

II. Reports and Accounts (1987-88) of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and related papers.

III. Notifications of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of section 35 of the Aligarh Muslim University Act. 1981:—

(i) Annual Accounts of the Aligarh Muslim University, for the year 1987-88 and the Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the paper mentoned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 7806/89 for (i) and (ii)]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88, together with the Audit Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Lalit Kala Akademi.

(iii) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentoned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 7752/89 for (i) to (iii)]

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications